26th July 1952]

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Wherever local bodies are paying more than the minimum wages, we are not cutting them down."

Representations from the handloom weavers of Malabar.

* 190 Q.—SRI R. KRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any memoranda or telegrams from Pudukkod village, in Palghat taluk, Malabar, regarding the unemployment and starvation of handloom weavers; and

(b) if so, what action the Government propose to take to ameliorate the condition of these weavers?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" A representation on the plight of weavers in Malabar was received by Government from the Secretary, Handloom Weavers' Association, Pudukkod, and it was forwarded to the Collector of Malabar for taking necessary action.

" (b) The Government have sanctioned a scheme for relief of distress among weavers through the agency of co-operative societies and it is being introduced in Malabar district also and the weavers in Pudukkod village are also likely to be benefited by the scheme."

SRI R. KRISHNAN :—" In view of the fact that the scheme is not a suitable one and as it will not be of any help to the majority of handloom weavers in the Pudukkod village, will the Government consider an alternative scheme for this purpose? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I have referred to this matter in the House, a number of times. The Government sent two Deputy Registrars to work out the new scheme. I can also tell this House that a satisfactory method of working the scheme has been reported. I have no details but as soon as I get the scheme, I shall place it before this House."

SRI C. V. K. RAO :—" With regard to the serious problems facing the handloom weavers, the Hon. the Chief Minister is reported to be in communication with the Central Government. May I know at what stage it is now, and the issues that he has taken up with them?"

MR. SPEAKER :—" The present question is about the handloom weavers in Malabar. So the hon. Member may give notice of a fresh question."

SRI O. KORAN :—" Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of handloom weavers and their dependants who have already left their homes in search of employment? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I should like to have notice."